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TOWN-PLANNING LIBRARY¹

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The actual achievements of American cities in city building, in the sense in which that term is used in Germany, or in laying out and constructing garden suburbs, as the English town planners define them, is as yet relatively slight and unimportant. The promise for the future, however, is bright, because we realize that changes in our cities and towns, if they are to be far-reaching, must spring from the people, and be at bottom an expression of the life of the people. We do not want mere experts' cities unless these various experts—engineers, city planners, landscape architects and architects—show themselves capable of expressing and interpreting the best impulses and highest conceptions of business men, of citizens, and of fathers and mothers and children for true city planning, and make cities that will serve the needs, physical and spiritual, of the people.

By what steps are we likely to get results? One of the principal is to recognize that changes in our practice can be brought about only by changes in public opinion. We must find more ways and better ways of forming intelligent public opinion, and of giving it effective expression.

One of the most useful and available methods of arousing, informing and directing public opinion is through the public library. Each city or town should have a representative collection of books on this subject, made easily available to the casual reader as well as the student. While such a library need not be large, it should give comprehensive surveys of the subject from different points of view, and cover all the essential elements.

Town planning in the modern sense is so new and vital a topic that much of the best material is in current periodicals, reports, and proceedings of national associations. Books, with few exceptions, are not up to date. The advances in the profession are being made by men who are too busy to formulate their results in a volume.

¹The title of this paper should be understood as including all subjects allied to town planning, such as housing, sanitation, etc.

A town library ought to give clear and definite general surveys of city planning from a number of professional viewpoints; it ought to give the reader an opportunity, for example, to know how city planning is viewed by the engineer, the architect, the landscape architect, the health expert, the sociologist, the publicist, the legislator and the city administrator. To this should be added, perhaps, the view which might be called that of "the man in the street."

The view of the engineer is particularly well expressed in the German treatises on the subject, especially by Dr. Stübben and Dr. Robert Wüttke. There are also valuable articles and reports by Nelson P. Lewis, B. A. Haldeman, Frank Koester, F. L. Ford, J. R. Freeman, Bion J. Arnold and Calvin Tomkins. A useful volume from this point of view is entitled, *Sanitary Roanoke*, by Emerson and Whitman.

From the point of view of the architect the two most valuable general surveys are those of H. Inigo Triggs, *Town Planning, Past, Present and Possible*; and Raymond Unwin, *Town Planning in Practice*. The writings of D. H. Burnham and E. H. Bennett, Arnold W. Brunner, J. M. Carrère, Grosvenor Atterbury and Robert S. Peabody are also of value.

Among landscape architects the reports and papers of Frederick L. Olmsted give a systematic and up-to-date survey of city planning, its scope and methods. The volume on the life and work of Charles Eliot, *Landscape Architect*, gives much that is valuable, although it does not discuss the more recent developments in town and city planning. *Replanning Small Cities*, by John Nolen, contains six typical studies, from the point of view of the landscape architect, of six representative American cities, all with a population of one hundred thousand or under. The books by Charles Mulford Robinson—*Modern Civic Art*, *The Improvement of Towns and Cities*, and his reports, are all of great value from this point of view. Mention should also be made of a modest little primer entitled *Landscape Architecture*, by H. W. S. Cleveland. One of the most complete reviews is that of Mr. Thomas H. Mawson, entitled *Civic Art: Studies in Town Planning, Parks, Boulevards, and Open Spaces*.

City planning from the point of view of the health expert can be understood and appreciated by consulting such books as *Sanitation and Sanitary Engineering*, by William Paul Gerhard; *The Health of the City*, by Hollis Godfrey; *Civics and Health*, by William H. Allen; *Municipal Engineering and Sanitation*, by M. N. Baker.

There are many books and many writers that approach town and city planning from a point of view which may be termed that of the sociologist or publicist. Important among these are Frederick C. Howe, Charles Zueblin, Sylvester Baxter, E. E. Pratt, Dr. S. M. Lindsay, ex-President Charles W. Eliot, Joseph Lee, Jane Addams, Walter D. Moody, Patrick Geddes, Ebenezer Howard, and Canon and Mrs. S. A. Barnet.

From the point of view of business men, there are comparatively few books. Among the best is that of Richard M. Hurd, *Principles of City Land Values*. Mention should be made, also, of the writings of Dr. E. E. Pratt of New York University, and papers by H. D. W. English, formerly president of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce. Especially interesting is the address which he prepared for the National Municipal League, entitled *The Functions of Business Bodies in Improving Civic Conditions*.

Legal conditions are often the determining ones in city-planning movements; therefore the point of view of the lawyer and the legislator is one that should not be overlooked. The two men in this country who have written most frequently and most ably are Andrew Wright Crawford and Flavel Shurtleff, both active in the National Conference on City Planning. Among English books may be mentioned especially *A Practical Guide to the Preparation of Town Planning Schemes*, by E. G. Bentley, and S. P. Taylor. In German the most useful volume is the *Kommunales Jahrbuch*, by H. Lindemann and A. Sudekum.

Much of the best material giving the views and recommendations of city administrators is to be had only in annual messages of mayors of various cities, and in other city documents. Mayor W. A. Magee of Pittsburgh and ex-Mayor John E. Reyburn of Philadelphia, have both written on the subject. Mr. Thomas Adams of the local government board, England, has prepared a number of valuable treatises and papers on the British town-planning act.

The point of view of the man in the street can be had from the writings of B. C. Marsh of New York, especially his *Introduction to City Planning*; Charles Zueblin, Sylvester Baxter, and G. D. Gallup. The latter has formulated a number of interesting statements for the Boston Chamber of Commerce. The papers of T. C. Horsfall, of England, are also important contributions, from this point of view.

In addition to the general surveys covering in a more or less general way the whole subject of town and city planning, but from special points of view, a town library ought to contain a few of the more important books dealing with each of the essential elements of town planning. These essential elements may be stated, for convenience, as follows: (1) the approaches to a city; (2) waterfronts; (3) city streets; (4) public buildings; (5) parks, parkways and playgrounds; (6) housing—garden cities and garden suburbs; (7) transportation.

The following is a brief list of books or articles dealing somewhat directly with each of these subjects:

1. Approaches

Modern City Gates. Huger Elliott.

The Terminal—The Gate of the City. W. Symmes Richardson.

The Problem of the Modern Terminal. Samuel O. Dunn.

2. Water fronts

A Study of Some Representative European Ports. F. L. Ford.

Holiday Study of Cities and Ports. R. A. Peabody.

The Port of Liverpool; Its Rise and Progress. Published by the Mersey Dock and Harbor Board.

The Port of Hamburg. E. J. Clapp.

Reports of the Dock and Harbor Board. Boston.

3. City Streets

Width and Arrangement of Streets. C. M. Robinson.

The Planning of City Streets. B. Antrim Haldeman.

Street Traffic Regulations. William P. Eno.

Shade Trees in Towns and Cities. William Solotaroff.

And especially the papers, treatises and reports of Nelson P. Lewis, chief engineer of the board of estimate and apportionment of New York City.

4. Public buildings

Der Städtebau nach seinen künstlerischen Grundsätzen. Camillo Sitte. Papers by Arnold W. Brunner.

The Modern School House. Prof. A. D. Hamlin.

5. Parks, parkways and playgrounds.

The Writings of F. L. Olmsted, Sr.

Reports by Olmsted Brothers.

Charles Eliot, Landscape Architect. C. W. Eliot.

Public Park Facilities in the United States. John Nolen.

American Playgrounds. E. B. Mero.

Amerikanische Park Anlagen. Werner Hegemann.

Proceedings of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

6. Housing. Garden cities and garden suburbs.
 Housing Reform. Lawrence Veiller.
 Model Tenement House Law. Lawrence Veiller.
 Proceedings of the National Housing Association. Bulletin of the
 Bureau of Labor. G. W. W. Hanger.
 Report on Model Houses. George N. Sternberg.
 Garden Cities of Tomorrow. Ebenezer Howard.
 Town Planning in Practice. Raymond Unwin.
 Practical Housing. J. S. Nettlefold.
 The Housing Handbook. W. Thompson.
 Housing Up To Date. W. Thompson.
 Handbuch des Wohnungswesens und der Wohnungsfrage. Dr. Rudolph
 Eberstadt.
 Housing Survey. Carol Aronovici.
7. Transportation.
 Papers, Treatises and Articles by M. R. Maltbie; Bion J. Arnold; H. C.
 Wright; E. P. Goodrich.
 Street Traffic Regulations. W. P. Eno.
 Proceedings of the National Conference on City Planning, and the
 American Society of Civil Engineers.

Among the proceedings of national associations which should be included in a town-planning library are the following, most of which have already been mentioned. National Conference on City Planning; American Society of Civil Engineers; National Housing Association; American Civic Association; American Institute of Architects; American Society of Landscape Architects; Royal Institute of British Architects.

The most valuable and complete check list of references on city planning has been recently published by the special libraries association, being compiled by the division of bibliography, Library of Congress, and the department of landscape architecture, Harvard University.

The publications giving most attention to city-planning topics regularly are: *The American City*, New York; *Landscape Architecture*, New York; *Town Planning Review*, Liverpool, England; *Garden Cities and Town Planning*, London, England; *Der Städtebau*, Berlin, Germany; *Engineering News*, New York; *Municipal Journal*, New York; *American Architect*, New York.

The above list is not in any sense complete, and others would probably make different selections. It is believed, however, that the list as outlined would prove a useful one for a town or small city

library which wished to appeal to and provide for the general reader. The only large classification that has been omitted is the list of town- and city-planning reports, about a hundred in number, prepared by various engineers, architects and landscape architects for particular cities. Such a list can readily be had. From the list given, it would be comparatively easy for the librarian or the reader to follow any subject more in detail, and to get additional references.